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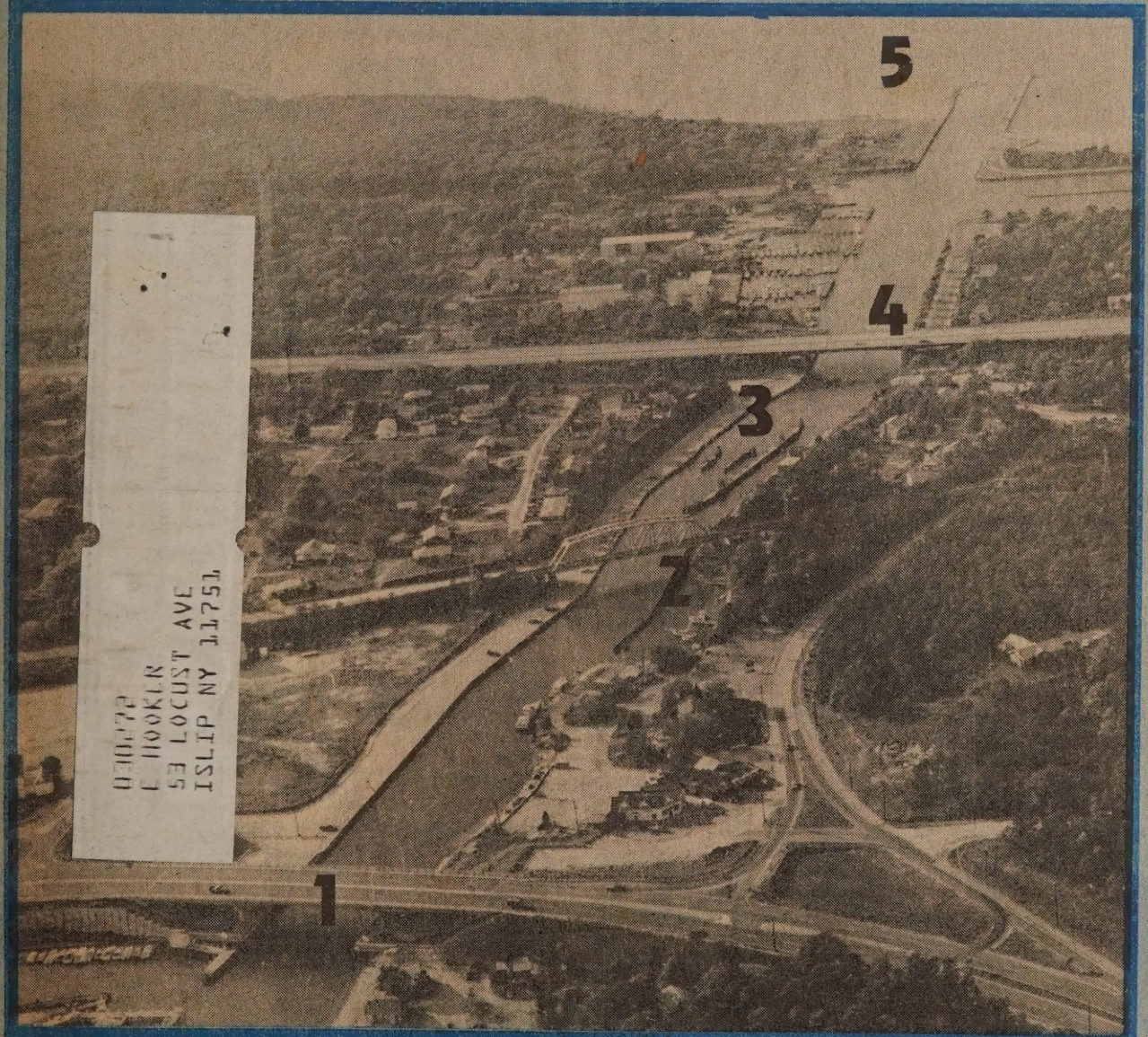
The Long Island FISHERMAN

The Difference Between Just Fishing and Catching Fish!

MARCH 10th, 1977 ISSUE No. 8



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The Long Island FISHERMAN

The Difference Between Just Fishing and Catching Fish!

VOL. 12, No. 8 MARCH 10th, 1977

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About the Cover—

In case you were wondering what the Shinnecock Canal complex looked like from an airplane, here it is! 1. Montauk Highway. 2. Railroad Bridge. 3. Shinnecock Canal Locks, shown while open. 4. Sunrise Highway. 5. Peconic Bay. Photo by Dick Mermon of the Shakespeare Corporation.

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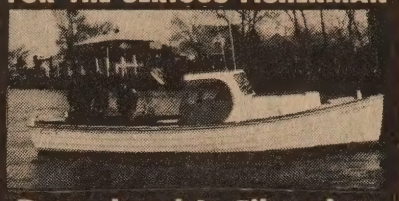

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EDITORIAL

Sportfishing Community To Rally To Defeat Salt Water License

It didn't take long for the sportfishermen of the New York Marine District to make their feelings known after last week's editorial.

Letters, phone calls, and conversations with sportsmen from Manhattan to Montauk echoed our sentiments. Even political officials privately laughed at the poor content and construction of the Bill.

However, interested and concerned people should be cautious. Their feelings that the Bill is absurd might create an atmosphere by which the Bill might sneak through both houses and become law!

By now many of you have already sent letters of disapproval to your state assemblymen and state senators and we thank you. However, your letters do not automatically mean that the Bill will be defeated.

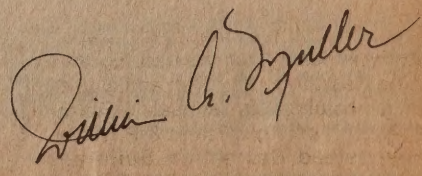
We have learned that Assemblyman Roland Kidder has called a public hearing on the issue. The hearing will be held in The Nassau Executive Building on Thursday, March 17th 1977 at 10 A.M. The time of this hearing is, of course, very convenient for those who are working. However, rest assured that The Fisherman will be present to make Mr. Kidder aware of your feelings.

In addition to our presence at the hearing we would like to encourage as many of you to attend as is possible. Perhaps some of you retired anglers could be present, or those of you who may be unfortunately unemployed at this time, and fishermen who work the night shift might also think about attending. The more fishermen that are present to voice their opposition, the more clearly will our message be communicated to Mr. Kidder.

In addition, we would like to inform you about another meeting that will be held on Friday evening on March 18th 1977. This meeting is being convened by The Long Island Fisherman. We have rented a hall in The Holiday Inn which is located on the Long Island Expressway, Exit 46, in Plainview. The meeting will begin at 8 P.M. The purpose of the meeting is to gather ideas and feelings about a salt water license. We need to know what to do to specifically defeat this Bill and what to do about a salt water license in the future.

The Long Island Fisherman wants to help its readers have a strong voice both on the local political front as well as in Albany and Washington D.C. We have used our political and editorial clout to defeat many proposals which would have threatened the quality of sportfishing on Long Island. In order for us to continue to serve you at maximum efficiency we are convening this meeting so that we can "get our philosophy together."

Good fishing!



Pass It On...

NASSAU COUNTY FISH & GAME ON READER'S SURVEY

Just finished reading your L.I.F. Readers Survey in regards to fresh water fishing. According to the survey only 14% of your readers are interested in fresh water fishing.

Being an avid fresh water man myself, I must admit that we are the minority here on L.I. Just a quick glance in any bay or marina on a summer afternoon will attest to that. However, we are dedicated to our sport, in fact, I believe, even more so than the average salt water fisherman. I am proud to say that I belong to the oldest fresh water fishing club on L.I., "The Fresh Water Anglers of L.I.," with 100 members. Some years ago this club fought for and got a tidal trout stocking program which has proven successful to this day. We also have The L.I. Bassmasters, The Nassau County Bassmasters and Trout Unlimited. These clubs are responsible for some of the stream and pond improvements that are benefited by all fresh water anglers here on L.I.

It is true that we have lost some waters in the past due to the march of progress, and through the ignorance or perhaps selfish "Town Fathers" in Southampton town. But the waters that we do have left have great potential. The Urban fisheries unit from D.E.C. is currently working on improving and reclaiming some local waters that will support bass and panfish which are now idle or full of trash fish.

Through the efforts of the N.Y. State Conservation Councils local fresh water fish committee, a new lake will be opened for public fishing on May 1st. This is the famed Hempstead Reservoir which has been off limits for years.

The N.C. Dept of Recreation and Parks and Nassau County Fish and Game Ass'n are presenting their first Fresh Water Symposium starting March 1st and will end in June. This is for anyone interested in learning the methods and skills of fresh water fishing.

I am sure that with all the above mentioned projects taking effect your future fresh water readers will increase more than the present 14%. On behalf of all the aforementioned groups and individual readers, I thank you for your decision to continue the fresh water column. It is deeply appreciated. By the way, The Nassau County Fish and Game Ass'n is holding its annual "Fresh Water Night" on April 7th at 8 P.M. in the Hempstead Recreation Building (Kennedy Memorial Park), 335 Green-

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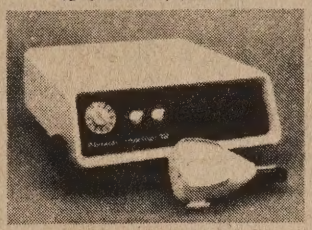

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The Long Island FISHERMAN CONTEST

FISHING TRIP

The Long Island Fisherman Litter Box Contest gives our readers a chance of winning a fishing trip for two on the open boat of their choice and a $10 cash prize. All the fisherman has to do is stop in at one of the better bait and tackle centers and pick up an L.I.F. Litter Box for the rear window of your car. Each week the license number of a car spotted with a litter box will be published—if it's yours, call The Fisherman by 5 P.M. that Friday and tell us the make and model of the car and you're a winner! If no call is received, the cash prize will accumulate.

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★ Bonus Prize ★

Contest winners also will receive a NAFABCO GIMBAL ROD BELT, the new lightweight unbreakable plastic gimbal for boat & surf!!!

LAST WEEK'S WINNER:

There was once again no winner for the contest, so next week's winner will receive $30 instead of the usual $10 plus a free fishing trip for two.

THIS WEEK'S WINNING LICENSE PLATE NUMBER IS:

318-KCN

Weekly winners of the L.I.F. Litter Box Contest may chose a trip for two aboard one of the following boats as their prize:

MONTAUK	CAPTREE	SHEEPSHEAD BAY	NORTH SHORE
Viking Star	Speedy VI	Amberjack IV	Port Jeff Ace
Peconic Queen III	Capt. Ben Litwin	Chief	Betty W
Marlin III	Capt. Joseph Fleet	FREEPORT Aloma II	

wich St., Hempstead. The evening is devoted entirely to freshwater fishing on L.I. and as chairman of the event, I welcome all fresh water readers to attend. I guarantee you will enjoy it. Again, many thanks. **Ray Allen, Chairman and Fresh Water Editor of Nassau County Fish and Game Ass'n.**

CLUB NEWS

SOS STRIPER ROUND-UP AND ANNUAL MEET

The S.O.S. Striper Round-up and Annual Meeting will be open to the public on Tuesday, March 15th, at 8:15 P.M.. This meeting is to be held at the VFW Post hall #3211 located at 320 So. Broadway (Rt. 107) in Hicksville; about ¼ mile south of Old Country Road.

There will be 3 guest speakers at that time. Nick Karas will be speaking of Striped Bass No-one Knows; Byron Young, Fisheries Biologist for D.E.C. will discuss tagging in the Hudson and L.I. Sound; and Jack Foehrenback, Chemical analysist from D.E.C. on Stony Brook Laboratory will report on PCB concentration levels found in L.I. striped bass.

These men will also describe 3 striped bass bills they will introduce for legislation.

The top of the evening will be a repeat of Big Fishing Tackle-Raffle and free refreshments. Additional information to be had by calling Bob Rance at 516 541-8676.

CHUM LINES

D.E.C. TURNS THUMBS DOWN ON L.I.F. REQUEST FOR P.C.B. INFO

On January 5, you wrote asking if you could receive a complete up-to-date, state-wide compilation of the PCB tests in fish.

Deputy Commissioner Dr. Theodore Hullar has advised me to tell you that we are not in a position to release this data since, in his opinion, "The data without interpretation is too subject to misunderstanding, misuse and misinterpretation."

We will, nevertheless, do our best to get this data in some useful form as soon as possible. **A.S. Taormina, Director of Marine and Coastal Resources.**

KRAZY KAPTIONS

"_____

_____"

How to Play "KRAZY KAPTIONS"

Just make up a humorous *Krazy Kaption* for the cartoon pictured above and send it to *The Long Island Fisherman.* Entries will be judged by the staff of The Fisherman, and the person submitting the winning caption will win $20 worth of assorted fishing tackle and junk.

A new *Krazy Kaptions* will appear in the second issue of each month, along with the winning *Krazy Kaption* for the previous month. So send in YOUR *Krazy Kaption* today! Just cut out and mail your entry to:

L.I.F. KRAZY KAPTIONS • P.O. Box 143 • Deer Park, N.Y. 11729

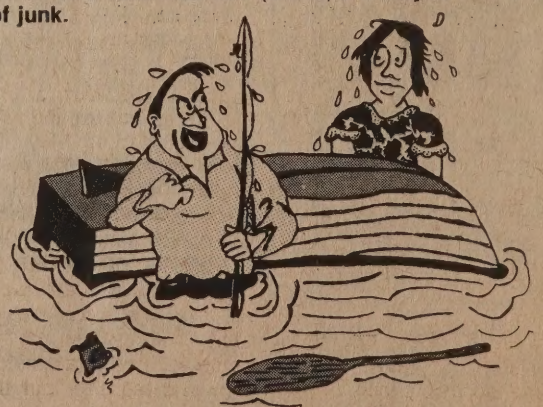
Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

I belong to the _____ fishing club.

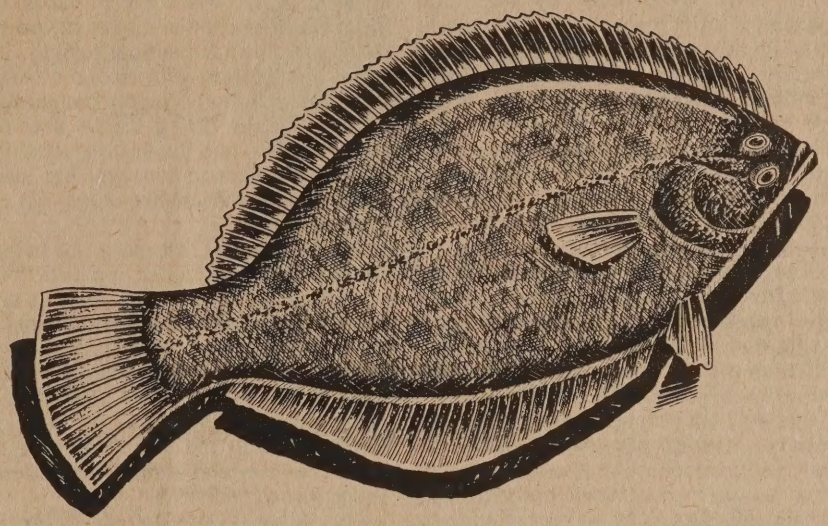
The first winning KRAZY KAPTION was submitted by John S. Hoina of East Meadow, Long Island. John's winning caption beat out over 400 other entries, and he will receive the $20 worth of assorted fishing tackle and junk. Send in YOUR Krazy Kaption for this week's cartoon (above) and maybe YOU will win a lot of junk.



"ETHEL! WHAT I SAID WAS, LOOK AT THAT FAT BASS!!"

Fish Talk with Dr. W.A. Muller

Winter Flounder



MORE ABOUT BLACKBACKS!

I'VE SEEN SOME WEIRD techniques used to take flounder, but two of the most interesting have to be fly fishing and the use of a float rig. A couple of years back I was fishing for flounder at the mouth of a tidal creek, when a guy rowed up to the spot, dropped his anchor, and began using a flyrod. At this point I was intrigued to the point of neglecting my baited rods. I watched as he began whipping a fly out into the gentle tide flow. It was late March so it was too early for weakfish and bass were not known to enter these waters until May. What was he doing? I had to know. I pulled anchor and chum pot and began to paddle towards him. I got it! The purpose of his technique suddenly dawned on me. He was trying to catch herring!?

"CATCH ANY YET?" I queried.

"NO, NOT YET, BUT I HOPE that I will," he answered.

"DO YOU USUALLY CATCH many herring that way?" I cupped my hands and shouted across the water. Well, this fella broke-up in uncontrolled laughter.

"I'M NOT FISHING for herring, I'm fishing for flounder." As he spoke he retrieved the fly to show me that it was a tiny thin red wet fly.

ANOTHER CRAZY METHOD would seem to have a greater potential to catch flounder in spite of its odd-ball appearance. Imagine finding an angler bobbing for flounder. I came across a fisherman who used one of those floats that falls down to the hook when you cast or retrieve. He attached a split shot to the line immediately before the hook. When the rig was tossed into the water, the baited hook fell to the bottom. A length of line equal to the depth of the water passed through a narrow tube in the center of the float until a knot and bead stopped the movement of the line.

WHEN A FLOUNDER BEGAN to munch on his baited hook, the float would wiggle a bit. A flick of his wrist to set the hook, and he had his quarry Excuse me, these approaches are interesting, but I'll stick to more traditional methods.

FLOUNDERS ARE SAID NOT to migrate too much. However, there seems to be some inconsistencies in this belief. For one thing some flatties move offshore to a depth of 30 to 50 fathoms when inshore waters become either too cold or too warm for them. That's a pretty healthy migration for a small slow swimming flatfish.

THEN THERE IS THE CONFUSION generated by the results of recent tagging studies. One flounder tagged at Heckscher Park, N.Y. in March 1973 was recaptured in the same bay in March 1976. Another fish tagged in the Thames River, Connecticut in January 1975 was caught in the same place in March 1976. It seems remarkable that these fish would find their way back to the same waters after migrating offshore for three and a single season respectively. Maybe they never left?

NOW, ON THE OTHER HAND, a flattie that was tagged and released near Freeport, NY in May 1975 was recaptured in March 1976 near Point Judith, Rhode Island. Was this a flounder that did migrate offshore and then wandered inshore a little off course?

NINETY FOUR PERCENT of those flounders which are tagged are caught again in the same area that they were tagged. A few fish have been known to be recaptured at a considerable distance from the tag site, but they seem to be exceptions.

THE FOLLOWING IS PURE opinion but here goes. The further offshore you fish for flounders the larger the specimens are likely to be. Thus, it is very likely that you'll catch flounders of a pound or less in most shallow bays, the fish will average about a pound-and-a-half to two pounds in deep water bays, they be two to three pounds near ocean inlets, perhaps as large as two to five pounds on the offshore grounds, and commercial operations take blackbacks between four and six pounds at Georges Bank.

SO MAYBE THE LITTLE ones don't move around much at all. Perhaps they stay in the bays where they were spawned for a few years. Perhaps once they become adults they migrate offshore-inshore with the seasons. If this is true they probably lack a homing mechanism. That is, it seems unlikely that they would be able to necessarily return to the place of their birth the way salmon do. There really is no advantage, from an evolutionary point of view, for them having this ability. Finally, the really big adults may not migrate very much either and are content to stay on the offshore grounds where water temperatures remain more or less constant but where food is less abundant.

WELL, THAT'S one man's opinion.

Surf Side with Vito Orlando

Selecting Your Gear
Part I Rods & Reels

When a newcomer to this fantastic sport of ours walks into a tackle store, he is usually overwhelmed by the huge display of equipment that's available to him. As he scans the walls and shelves of the store, he becomes increasingly more confused as to what tackle fits his needs. He notices big rods, small rods, one piece rods, two piece rods, spinning rods and the conventional type. An enormous selection of assorted lures and plugs also catches his eye, and then, when he sees the many reels from which to choose, his doubts turn to madness. He could ask for help from the salesman, however, unless the salesman is a dedicated surf fisherman, or has been in the business for a long time, it is doubtful that the correct answers will be supplied.

In the ensuing paragraphs I will attempt to point out the limitations of various types of tackle. It will not be the final answer to a difficult problem, but rather is meant to serve as a guide, so that the proper tackle selection may be made easier.

SPINNING VS. CONVENTIONAL TACKLE. As we get into the proper surf fishing equipment to fit your needs, let me state, "that I am a firm believer in spinning tackle." The use of the fixed spool reel (spinning reel) revolutionized the fishing tackle industry shortly after World War II. It not only made learning to cast while attaining maximum distance an easy chore, but it eliminated the need for setting the correct spool tension and then, for thumbing the spool when casting. While the revolving spool reel (conventional reel) "may" or "may not" afford more distance once you become good at using it, it takes a great deal of time and effort to master. So stay with the fixed spool reel and leave the revolving spool to the Old Masters with the educated thumbs.

RODS. While trying to make a selection among the many spinning rods on the market today, keep in mind "that there is no such thing as an all around rod." Different locations and fishing conditions require different fishing techniques. What rod is just right for use in one area, may be either too light or too heavy for use in another. For example, at Montauk Point, while fishing under the famed lighthouse, the eleven and one-half foot rod reigns supreme, and a six or seven foot rod would be out of place. It is from this rock infested shoreline that long casts and the ability to quickly overpower your quarry are often the orders of the day. These two items just cannot be accomplished with a small stick. On the other hand, at the Plum Beach section of Brooklyn the big rod would only hamper your fishing. The fish at this location will respond better to the soft touch, that can only be had with lighter tackle. Long casts are not required here, and the smaller stick (7-8 foot medium action rod) will get along just fine with the smaller plugs that are to be used.

If your fishing pleasure is bottom fishing, then the bigger rod has many advantages over smaller ones. Not only will it permit you to cast up to six ounce sinkers effectively, but the added weight of the rod will help to keep your line angled over the high surf that may be encountered. Thus your sinker will hold longer. A small rod just does not have these qualities and should not be used under these conditions.

I hope that by now you are beginning to get the picture. Fit your tackle to the area to be fished!

Another very important consideration when purchasing a rod is the matter of storage and transportation. If you have the room, and travel to and from the beach with no problem, then select a one piece rod. However, if your storage space is limited, or you depend on public transportation for your travel, consider a two piece rod. Don't worry about the criticisms you may have heard regarding the two piece sticks. In recent years many of the popular tackle manufacturers have overcome some minor obstacles and created some fine two piece rods. Keep the ferrules clean and you shouldn't have any problems with them. Another interesting fact regarding the two piece rod is that some of the best distance casters are beginning to use them in casting competition. This should tell you something about the new versions.

Attached to any rod you purchase should be stainless steel guides. Some manufacturers cover the stainless guides with a hard chrome shell, and so much the better. However, even these guides will eventually get nicked and should be replaced periodically. Study the booklet that comes with the rod before buying, and you will learn an awful lot about it.

Some of the more notable rod makers offer a guarantee. Such brand names as Garcia, Fenwick, Shakespeare, Daiwa, Browning, and True Temper produce excellent rods.

You can also make your own rod, which is not as difficult as one may think. There are many books available on the subject and they show a step by step illustration on how to do it.

If your time is limited, you can get a rod custom built by many of the advertisers in The Long Island Fisherman. A custom built rod is not that expensive and in some cases is actually cheaper than buying one off the rack.

With regards to the quality of rod to select, let your budget be your guide. The prices vary greatly, from a nominal glass rod, to the very expensive new type graphite poles.

Many of the manufacturers use a color code or star rating to denote quality. Buy the best you can afford, take the proper care of it, and it should last for quite awhile.

To sum up what I have just mentioned, when you fish the open beach or fish such places as Montauk, then you will be better served with a big rod (10½ to 11½ feet medium action.) If the back bays or the quiet waters of an estuary are your choices, then select a 7 to 8 foot medium action stick. Or you can always do what so many veteran Long Island surf fishermen do, and that is to get a rod to fit each occasion.

REELS. Your reel should match your rod. Again, if your intentions are to plug the open beach, to fish bottom, or such places as Montauk, select a reel with a large diameter spool. A Crack 300 and Penn 704 are two good reels that can be used in conjunction with the big rods. Reels of these types have the necessary strength and stamina to handle big fish under trying conditions. They also have a faster gear ratio that is compatable to the working big plugs. Incidentally, the Crack 300 is the unanimous choice among knowledgeable surfmen, however they are becoming increasingly more difficult to obtain. I would rate the Penn a very good substitute.

If your fishing will be confined to the back bays or estuaries, a small diameter spool reel should be used. Such reels as the Penn 710, Crack 200, and Zebco Cardinal 7 are most seen used in areas such as these. Those type of reels help supply the lighter touch that is often necessary to score consistently in these quiet waters.

Don't worry about hooking a big fish on light tackle. As long as your drag setting is set BELOW the breaking point

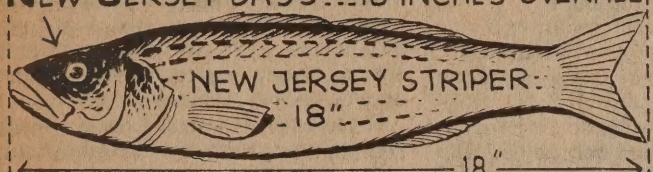
(Continued on page 19.)

FISHERMAN TIPS

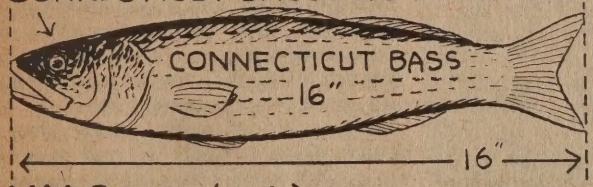
BY FRED GUARDINEER

HOW TO MEASURE LEGAL SIZE STRIPED BASS IN THE N.Y. BIGHT CONFUSES MANY FISHERMEN INCLUDING YOURS TRULY. PHONE CALLS TO THREE STATES PRODUCED THE FOLLOWING:

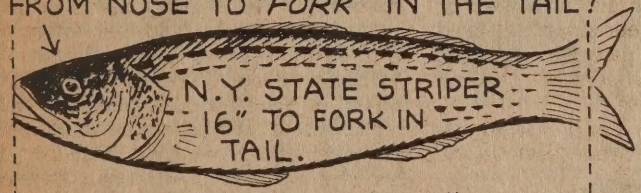
NEW JERSEY BASS...18 INCHES OVERALL



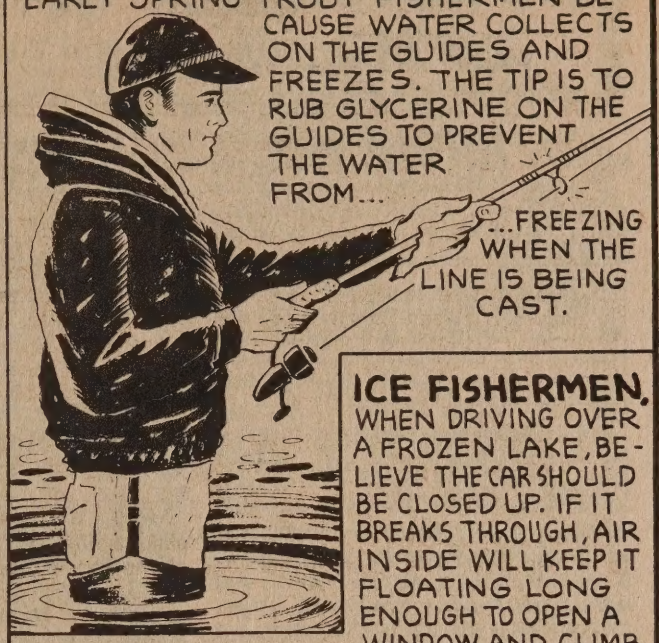
CONNECTICUT BASS...16 INCHES OVERALL



N.Y. STATE (L.I.) BASS... 16 INCHES FROM NOSE TO "*FORK*" IN THE TAIL!

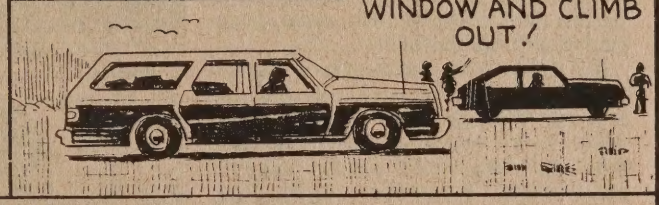


ROD GUIDE ICING IS A PROBLEM OF EARLY SPRING TROUT FISHERMEN BECAUSE WATER COLLECTS ON THE GUIDES AND FREEZES. THE TIP IS TO RUB GLYCERINE ON THE GUIDES TO PREVENT THE WATER FROM...



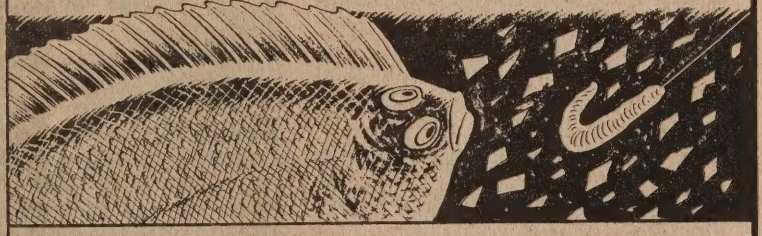
...FREEZING WHEN THE LINE IS BEING CAST.

ICE FISHERMEN, WHEN DRIVING OVER A FROZEN LAKE, BELIEVE THE CAR SHOULD BE CLOSED UP. IF IT BREAKS THROUGH, AIR INSIDE WILL KEEP IT FLOATING LONG ENOUGH TO OPEN A WINDOW AND CLIMB OUT!



AN EEL FISHING TIP IS TO RUN A WIRE ACROSS THE TOP OF YOUR FISH PAIL ATTACHED TO THE BASES OF THE HANDLE. HELD ABOVE THE PAIL, THE EEL WILL WRAP ITSELF TIGHTLY AROUND THE WIRE WHILE IT IS BEING UNHOOKED. WHEN LOOSE, THE EEL DROPS DOWN INSIDE THE BUCKET.

COLLECT EGG SHELLS FOR THE FLOUNDER SEASON. BROKEN INTO TINY PIECES, THEY FLUTTER DOWN AND COVER THE BOTTOM - ATTRACTING THE FLATTIES TO YOUR BAIT!



STATISTICS GATHERED BY "*KEEP AMERICA BEAUTIFUL, INC.*" SHOW THAT FISHERMEN AND HUNTERS PRODUCE ONLY 5% OF OBJECTIONABLE LITTER, 25% BY PICNICKERS AND 70% BY MOTORISTS!

Sinker Bouncing Spring Flounder Fishing

with Matt Ahern

It's a good thing fishermen are optimistic.

Right now as I write this, rain is coming down in buckets, we've already had a bit of snow, and the extended forecast is for extreme cold weather. So why am I thinking about flounder fishing? Because as I said, fishermen are optimistic. We know this weather will break soon and it won't be long before flounders will be prowling the bays. And I for one can't wait!

Most fishermen look forward to going flounder fishing around St. Patrick's Day—give or take a few days either way. It is then when bay waters begin warming, slowly reaching the desired temperature necessary for the flatties to shed their muddy winter blanket and start feeding. The experienced fisherman knows early spring flounders are hungry and that he will have little trouble getting his share.

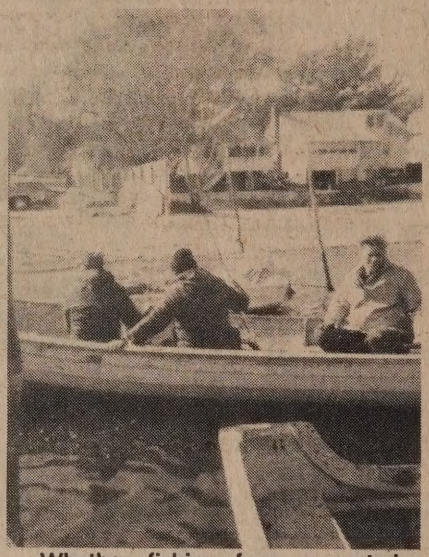
But what about the beginning fisherman? Will he have an easy time of it? Or will he soon give up in disgust? Depends, of course, on how he goes about it. Most fishing scribes will tell you flounders are easy to catch. And they are—but only when the fisherman knows exactly what he's doing. Now, this seems obvious, but many beginners believe because flounders are plentiful, there's nothing difficult about it. Believe me, there's more to catching flounders than just lowering a bait to the bottom.

First are the tackle requirements. You can catch flounders with any kind of tackle you wish. Even employing codfishing tackle, if you care to. A fifty-cent drop line in the hands of an expert angler will outfish a rod. But you won't have much fun doing it. And that's half the enjoyment of flounder fishing.

The fun comes in watching that flattie zipping around at the end of a bowed rod. That's what gets the old adrenalin flowing. I believe this is the main reason fishermen go back time and again. Certainly, the veteran fisherman knows the flounder is a scrappy fish if given half the chance.

To get the most out of flounder fishing, you will find nothing beats a light spinning outfit. When using such an outfit, even a medium-sized flounder will give a good account of itself. Fill a matching open-faced spinning reel with four to six pound test good quality monofilament line and you're in business.

If the area you plan on fishing is known for its strong currents—and you should avoid this, if possible—heavier than usual sinkers will be mandatory. It is then advisable to use a medium-weight conventional rod and reel. Fill the reel with ten pound test mono. The same applies to spots known to contain littered bottom, such as areas similar to Shinnecock Canal. If you get snagged, you have a fighting chance of getting some of your rig back. You will notice in the photo that just such an outfit is being used. When you are unsure of your fishing area, it is best to take along both outfits. If anything unforeseen comes up, you will be prepared for it.



Whether fishing from a rented skiff....

....or from shore, flounders aren't difficult to catch once the basics are learned.

Rigging for flounder is simple. In fact, rigging for any type of bottom fishing is easily done and you shouldn't attempt to make it difficult.

Always remember: the less hardware the better. And this applies whether you're codfishing, out after blacks. or whatever. Therefore, be advised to stay away from flounder spreaders.

If you insist upon using these abominations, not only will you have to put up with copious amounts of seaweed, but spreaders are certain to foul on the slightest obstructed bottom. Which can all add up to a beautiful case of frustration, plus a good chance of reducing your potential catch. As large flounders are often suspicious (that's probably why they get large) they will spit out bait that feels unnaturally anchored to the bottom. Which is exactly what the flounder spreader will accomplish for you. A word to the wise is sufficient.

Always tandem-tie your hooks. To do this, take two Chestertown hooks, preferably number nines, and fold the snell of one in the middle. Take the loop of the second hook and pass it through the fold. The second hook is then run through the fold and drawn up tightly. When secured with a common overhand knot, it will not slip. Takes but seconds and you are assured that your hooks will always be on the bottom—where they must be to catch flounders. Place this rig about two inches above a two-ounce bank sinker by forming a two-inch loop made with a double-overhand knot.

You can also use a 2/0 to 4/0 sinker snap and place both sinker and hooks together. I usually prefer this method in early spring when colder water makes the fish more sluggish in their approach to bait. Later, as the water warms, and the fish hit the bait with more gusto, tying the hooks directly to the line will give more sensitive control.

Another method that many fishermen use is to employ a one-ounce egg or slip sinker and a small number ten snap swivel. Run the end of the main line through the sinker and tie on the snap swivel. This serves not only as a stop, but the rig is easily attached to the snap. This is particularly good when you believe the fish to be wary. I don't use

this method often for flounders, but it sometimes works wonders on fluke.

Bait, of course, is the well-known blood and sandworm. You'll find that if most of your fishing is done on the north shore of Long Island, sandworm will be best to use. South shore flounders prefer bloodworm. But this is not to say that flounder from this area will refuse sandworm, and vice-versa. (I'd like to have a buck for everytime south shore flounders pulled a switch and thought sandworm best.)

That is the reason experienced flounder fishermen bring along more than one kind of bait. They know from past experience how finicky the flatties can be. Don't forget fresh clam will sometimes outfish the squirmers—especially in the early part of the run. These can be skimmer clam, soft clam (steamers), or hard clam (chowders.) Of this selection, I believe the neck of the soft clam has the edge. When slicing clam make sure some of the soft stomach remains with the bait. This is what flounders relish.

All bait, including worms, are cut into inch-and-a-half pieces for best results. It is important that the hook point be allowed to protrude about a third of an inch before the end of the bait. This assures easy hooking. And the flounders never notice. Always make sure that bait is not bunched on the hook. Large flounder will shy away if this is done—especially when using worms. The idea is to make the bait as natural looking and appealing as possible. If you do that, you've got it made.

Don't overlook the fish-catching ability of bank mussels. These can be purchased at fishing stations during the spring run. Mussels may be difficult to keep on the hook, especially when casting from shore, but they are worth the trouble. It seems no flounder can resist these yellow-meated tid-bits. As far as chum is concerned, nothing draws flounder to the baited hook as does cracked mussels.

Use mussels for chum by scattering a handful at a time around the boat. If the current is strong enough to carry them too far away to do much good, fill a chum pot and put it over the side. Bounce it occasionally on bottom to disperse the contents into the current. Any flounder in the vicinity are sure to follow the goodies to the source. They will then accept any of the recommended baits you care to use.

Look for early spring flounder on mud bottom in water at least fifteen feet deep. If the water is exceptionally cold, you may have to go down an extra ten feet or so. It isn't until the water warms sufficiently in April that you can expect to find flatties in the shallows. If your fishing area is known to be naturally shallow—Great South Bay for instance, do your fishing in the deepest parts. It is here where area charts are invaluable.

Flounders must be hunted. Sometimes a move of fifty feet will put you into fish. If weather conditions permit, it is a good idea to drift until fish are found, then get the anchor over. The same applies when shore fishing. Always keep moving until fish are found. Once you get the first one, more will follow.

During spring, many small flounders are caught. To insure your future fishing, put them back. Treat them gently when unhooking. Don't scale across the water like a frisbee, either. If you do, you will probably undue all your good intentions.

Flounders aren't migratory; each area has its supply. Deplete it and it will take years to come back. Conserve the flounder. NOW!

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Spring Codfish Plus

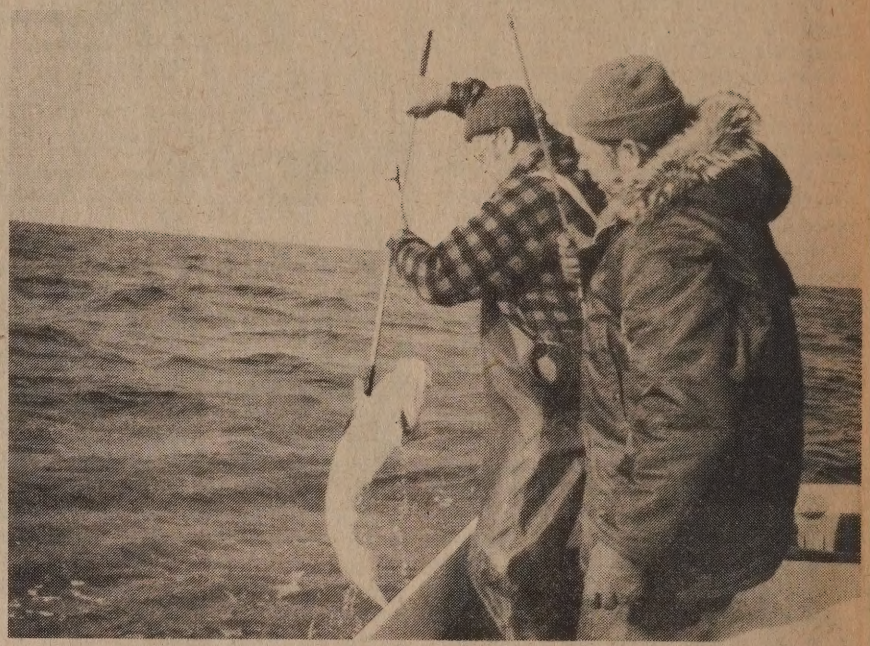
by Capt. Ron Onorato

After the seemingly interminable winter has passed, and spring is just about knocking on the door, there is a small group of fishermen that set their sights offshore. It is at this time of year that good numbers of codfish ply the inshore waters along the south shore of Long Island. The thing that amazes me most, is the very light fishing pressure put on these fish, a far cry from the massive assault on the fall and early winter codfish run. I suppose that most of the boatowners are now working on their boats getting them ready for later use, and that at this time of the year, the weather isn't exactly the nicest to fish in. Still, there are days when it is absolutely beautiful around the beginning of April and hardly another boat is fishing outside the inlet. This, despite the fact that the fish are often found right under the beach itself.

The trend of the codfish movement for the past several years seems to be that the fish are favoring the deeper waters around 100 and 105 feet, while making only occasional forays inshore. In the springtime, the exact opposite seems to be the rule. The best fishing seems to be in water depths that range from 50 to 65 feet, while the deeper water holds few if any fish. And more importantly, these inshore fish have an added bonus, big yellowtail flounders.

While many years ago it was often possible to really score big on these inshore cod, the reduced fish stocks can also be seen in the catches. In the late 60's it was possible to venture out of either Deb's or Jones Inlets and go a few miles off the beach and get knee deep into codfish. Today the same areas produce fish, except that the catches are significantly reduced. Whereas you could have taken 30 or 40 fish years ago, a good catch today consists of a dozen fish.

These fish that are caught close to the beach are the same fish that are caught offshore throughout January and February. Around the end of March, these fish move inshore as the waters warm up a bit and will feed there for a couple of weeks. Once the inshore waters warm up too much, usually around the middle of April, the fish then depart from the area entirely until the following fall. It is when the fish move into these inshore waters that you can get a shot at some pretty good yellowtail flounder fishing. At this time of the year, there are pretty good numbers of the big flounders that will feed in the same general area as the cod.



A hefty spring cod is bounced aboard by George Oliver.

The best water depth seems to be either the 65 foot level or the 55 foot level along the beaches. This panel of water runs from south of the Jones Beach tower along to Deb's Inlet. The fish can be found anywhere along this range at this time of the year. As a general rule, the water south of Long Beach seems to be a little more productive than the eastern waters. Regardless of where you are fishing, keep an eye on the water clarity. The winds are often blowing for days at a time and can easily cloud up the shallow, inshore waters. If this is the case, try deeper water, say 70 or 75 feet of water, or until the water looks reasonably clear. Seldom is there good fishing in the murky water.

For reasons unknown to me, most of these spring cod are relatively small when compared with the fall run fish. Seldom are fish over 20 pounds in weight taken, indeed, a fish in the teens is considered large. The average size is between 3 and 8 pounds in weight. Tackle selection is an important consideration when fishing here.

The added bonus that many fishermen are unaware of, are the often plentiful supplies of yellowtail flounders in the area. These fish are not always taken along with the cod, but are present more often than not. These fish are large when compared to the bay flounders, running from 1½ to 3 pounds in weight, and are not quite as thick as the regular blackback flounder. The yellowtail flounder makes up a large portion of the commercial dragger's catch at this time of the year.

It was almost accidentally that I discovered the presence of these flounders. Several years ago, in early April, the boat was anchored in 60 feet of water off Long Beach and there was a slow pick of small cod. In between the codfish, the bait on the bottom hook was often removed entirely, or ripped into tiny shreds. The first thought to cross our minds were whiting, as they too are often taken in the inshore waters. Hoping to fool a few of these tasty fish, a 1/0 O'Shaugnessey hook replaced the 4/0 cod hook, and a tiny piece of clam rim was used. As the rod was being held, the same tiny bites came again and the hook was set. We were astonished to see a nice flounder foul hooked in the head. Needless to say, the bottom hook was soon replaced with some smaller flounder hooks, and by days end, a dozen yellowtail came on board. Unfortunately, we didn't connect with them anymore

that year, but that little piece of info was stored away for future use.

Basically, the codfishing techniques for spring run fish are pretty much the same as the fall fishing, with the exception being the tackle that can be used. As mentioned earlier, the fish are smaller and the need for those heavy stout outfits are diminished. Any medium-light conventional outfit capable of being matched with a reel holding 20 pound monofilament is the ideal outfit. The current out here is pretty light, and very seldom is there a need to use more than 6 or 8 ounces of lead. The type of sinker that should be used however, should not be the bank type, but rather the flat type. The fish don't really want a moving bait, and the flat sinkers keep the bait anchored a little better than the bank type.

While those 6/0 or 8/0 hooks are good for those thirty or forty pound fish, they serve little purpose for these smaller cod. The largest hook that should be used is about a 4/0 hook. The same two hook rig can be brought into play here, with the only exception being, lowering the top hook so that it is no more than three feet off the bottom. Personal observations on the habits of the cod indicate that nearly all of the fish caught at this time of year are taken on the bottom hook, which is attached just a few inches above the sinker. The second hook is then added about two feet above the first hook. Apparently the fish are scrounging right on the bottom for their feed and are not looking for food waving over their heads. In the fall, the fish are feeding on ling, whiting and mackerel and may be fully ten feet off the bottom, not so in the spring. These fish seem to be right smack on the bottom.

The amount of bait that you put on the hook is also of key importance. Use no more than half a skimmer clam, or better yet cut the bellies from a couple of fresh skimmers and put them right onto the hook. Save the tongue or the rim for the flounders. These small cod suck up those clam bellies like there was no tomorrow.

Rather than combine a big flounder hook on the bottom with a cod hook a little higher up, it is better to bring a separate stick for the flounders. You'll need a heavier outfit than that used for bay fishing, though you can still stay with spinning tackle if you like it. A single #6 Chestertown on a long 18 or 20 inch leader is more effective than a couple of hooks tied together. This hook can be baited with a long, thin slice of clam tongue or with the lip or rim of the clam. The best thing to do is cast out the rod sticks away from the boat a bit and give them plenty of slack so they don't move too much, and fish the flounder stick near the boat. These flounders bite just like their bay brothers and are just as much fun.

School size cod like this are becoming very rare in local waters.

Patience is the key to success when fishing these grounds, even more so than in the fall. Winter cod are usually around in pretty good numbers and if there are any fish around you'll usually know about it. It's a safe bet that after an hour and a half if there are no hits, that the time to move has arrived. In the springtime, I have waited as much as a three full hours before the first hit came. Usually after that first fish, others will follow. These inshore cod are constantly moving up and down the beach and it often takes an extremely long period of time before they find your chum.

Therefore two drops are the most that should be attempted in a single days fishing. The first drop should be made inshore, and if that doesn't produce after say 3 hours, then move to a little deeper water. You should be prepared to chum a bushel of skimmer clams at each drop if necessary. A little trick that will induce the smaller fish to hit the hooks rather than just eat the chum, is to stop chumming or to chum very lightly when the first fish comes along. These tiny cod don't eat as much as the larger specimens, and often will eat all the chum and thereby pass up the baited hook. Once that first fish is taken, crack just an occasional clam to keep their interest, but no more than that.

This is also true if you happen across any flounders in the area. The flounders will be lying back along the edge of the chum and will stuff themselves on that rather than go for your hook. As far as the flounders are concerned, they are usually found in the 50 foot range around the end of March, and towards April, they are more often taken in the 60 and even the 70 ft. range. Just watch where the draggers are working and you will get an idea of where to try for the big flatties. In some years the yellowtails are quite numerous and you could get them just about every time you tried, while other years they were scarce and you were lucky to run across them at all. Regardless, that flounder rod should go along every time you venture forth from the inlet. Better to have it and not need it, than to need it and not have it.

With the stocks of codfish being reduced every year it is seldom to have a bonanza. Sometimes you'll have to settle for just a couple of small fish for your day's efforts. This fishing allows you a break from the routine of inshore flounder fishing and gives the small outboarder a shot at some fishing without the long runs offshore. It is a long wait 'till next November and the fall cod run, so those fresh steaks in the freezer will look pretty good.

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N.Y. BIGHT Fishing Report

FREEPORT

Capt. Richie of the **Starstream II** was out Saturday and Sunday, fishing for cod and on Sunday caught over a dozen cod up to 7 pounds.

The **Captain Al** reports that next week he will begin fishing for flounder.

ISLAND PARK

The **Commodore** reports that they were out on Saturday and Sunday and were fishing their local flounder spots in and around Reynolds Channel. Some flounder were caught, not a lot, but decent size and this is an indication that this will be a productive flounder year.

Various parties have called in this week to let us know that flounder are being picked for those individuals willing to go out and stir up the mud and chum heavy. Seeing as how the water is still so cold and the season just starting, there are strong indications that there will be very good flounder catches this spring.

SHEEPSHEAD BAY

The **New Eagle** will be going on Tile Fishing Trips on April 1st and 15th in the Hudson Canyon. Call for information because there will be limited reservations.

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SOUTH SHORE Fishing Report

MONTAUK

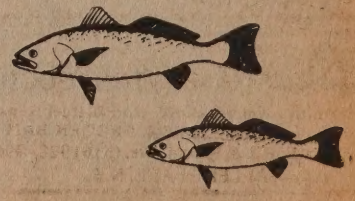
Captain Richard Rade of the **Marlin IV** reported that the codfishing has been fair-to-middlin'. On Wednesday he fished the Submarine Wreck by Block Island and took 70 small cod. There was a heave on Saturday which accounted for the low catch of 30 cod, so on Sunday the boat sailed to Coxe's Ledge and did a pretty good job with about 70 small cod. One lucky angler managed to cop the $370 pool with a 10 lb. codfish, a feat unheard of in the anals of Coxe's Ledge Codfishing. Richie said that all the ice floes have melted but the water temperature is still low because there are no dogfish or bergalls in the area. But set-liners are doing a number on big cod, so there are plenty of fish in the area waiting to take a hook and line as soon as the water temperature goes up a degree or two.

Captain Dick Vigilant of the charter-boat **Triton II** has been filling in his open dates with a little set-lining and has been doing a real number on codfish in the 15 to 30 lb. range. Dick noted that very few fish are under 15 pounds which means some great codfishing is just around the corner when they start taking the hook and line better. The entire area is inundated with hordes of sandeels and flounder that the cod have been feeding on. The **Triton II** is booking now for cod, flounder, and what ever for groups large and small.

CAPTREE

Captain George Tweedy of the **Captain Scotty** told us that he took 7 cod on Saturday and 13 cod on Sunday fishing the open bottom. But by the time this report is read the **Captain Scotty** will be flounder fishing in the deep water of the State Channel where the water is warmest. The boat sails at 8 A.M. daily.

Captain Speedy Hubert of the **Speedy VI** reported that he will also start flounder fishing this Saturday if the boat is out of the boatyard. Many of the other boats are also starting flounder fishing this weekend, so check the ads on page 16.



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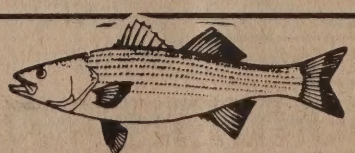

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SurfSide
(Continued from page 8.)

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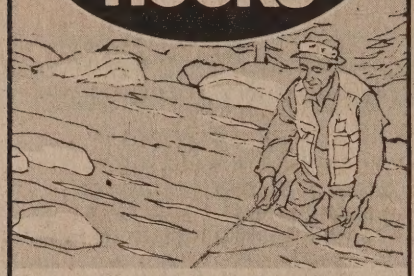

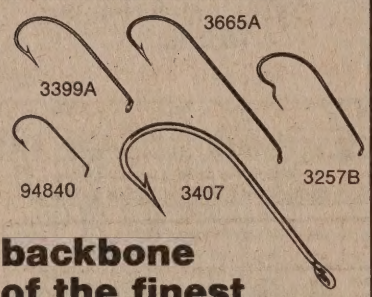

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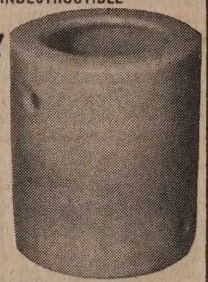

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HIGH TIDE TABLES

DAY	SANDY HOOK AM	SANDY HOOK PM	Breakwater Harbor AM	Breakwater Harbor PM	NEW YORK AM	NEW YORK PM	NEW LONDON AM	NEW LONDON PM	WILLETS POINT AM	WILLETS POINT PM	BRIDGEPORT AM	BRIDGEPORT PM	NEWPORT AM	NEWPORT PM	DATE
THUR.	11:19	11:51	11:58	—	—	12:02	12:21	12:53	2:04	2:35	2:17	2:49	11:18	11:47	3/10
FRI.	—	12:18	12:30	12:58	12:31	1:02	1:19	1:56	3:00	3:37	3:13	3:50	—	12:18	3/11
SAT.	12:52	1:21	1:33	2:05	1:31	2:04	2:25	3:05	4:06	5:01	4:16	4:55	12:49	1:21	3/12
SUN.	1:54	2:28	2:43	3:18	2:34	3:11	3:33	3:15	5:39	6:45	5:23	6:02	1:55	2:27	3/13
MON.	3:03	3:40	3:55	4:29	3:41	4:20	4:42	5:22	7:12	7:54	6:30	7:07	2:59	3:30	3/14
TUE.	4:09	4:44	5:01	5:30	4:46	5:23	5:46	6:21	8:18	8:53	7:35	8:08	4:00	4:28	3/15
WED.	5:08	5:37	5:58	6:26	5:45	6:16	6:44	7:12	9:15	9:43	8:34	9:00	4:55	5:20	3/16
THUR.	6:00	6:25	6:49	7:12	6:37	7:02	7:34	7:57	10:04	10:28	9:29	9:49	5:46	6:07	3/17

HOW TO USE TIDE TABLES:

To compute the high tide for the area you wish to fish, simply find the closest area on the conversion tables. Add or subtract the hours and minutes as indicated from that areas station above. Example: "Shinnecock Inlet.....—0 50" is listed under "On SANDY HOOK." —0 50 means you subtract 50 minutes from the times given for the SANDY HOOK STATION for the day you are going fishing. This is the approximate time for the high tide in the area. For low tide , add 6 ½ hours to this figure.

On SANDY HOOK

STATEN ISLAND	+ 0 27
ATLANTIC HIGHLANDS	—0 01
Red Bank, Navesink R.I.	+ 0 48
Long Branch	—0 34
SHARK RIVER INLET	—0 18
Shark River Basin	+ 0 27
MANASQUAN INLET	—0 12
Seaside Park	—0 33
Mantoloking Bridge	+ 5 34
TOMS RIVER	+ 4 37
Waretown	+ 2 33
BARNEGAT LIGHT	—0 20
Manahawkin Bridge	+ 2 33
Beach Haven	+ 1 47
LITTLE EGG INLET	—0 01
Seven Islands	+ 0 12
Graveling Point	+ 1 05
Mullica River	+ 1 55
Grassy Bay	+ 1 06
ABSECON INLET	+ 0 14
Atlantic City Pier	—0 26
Gt. Egg Harbor Inlet	+ 0 12
GREAT EGG HARBOR	+ 0 46
CORSON INLET	+ 0 09
TOWNESEND INLET	+ 0 06
HEREFORD INLET	+ 0 02
Grassy Sound Bridge	+ 0 45
Cape May Harbor	—0 02
Rehoboth Beach	—0 07
INDIAN RIVER INLET	+ 0 14
SHINNECOCK INLET	—0 50
Shinnecock Bay	+ 1 25
East Quogue	+ 2 45
Shinnecock Canal	+ 1 18
Indian Reservation	+ 3 05
MORICHES INLET	—0 56
Smith's Point	+ 3 28
Harts Cove	+ 1 30
Potunck Point	+ 3 35
Mastic Beach	+ 3 28
FIRE ISLAND INLET	—0 38
Democrat Point	—0 38
Coast Guard Station	—0 19
Fire Island Light	+ 0 47
GREAT SOUTH BAY	
Sayville	+ 3 39
Heckscher State Pk.	+ 3 20
Bay Shore	+ 2 23
Babylon	+ 2 12
Amityville	+ 2 21
JONES INLET	—0 19
Zachs Bay	+ 1 25
Seaford Harbor	+ 2 05
Freeport Creek	+ 0 34
E. ROCKAWAY INLET	—0 06
Long Beach Bridge	+ 0 19
ROCKAWAY INLET	—0 00
Beach Ch. Bridge	+ 0 38
JFK Airport	+ 0 26

On BRIDGEPORT

Lloyd Point	+ 0 08
Cold Spring Harbor	+ 0 06
Bayville Bridge	+ 0 13
Eatons Neck Point	+ 0 03
Northport Bay	+ 0 03
Norwalk Islands	+ 0 10
Smithtown Bay	—0 03
Cranes Neck Point	+ 0 05
Port Jefferson Harbor	+ 0 03
New Haven Harbor	+ 0 06
Mount Sinai Harbor	—0 08
Herod Point	—0 07
Mattituck Inlet	+ 0 19
Horton Point	—0 20
Truman Beach	—0 42
Falkner Island	—0 13
Sachem Head	—0 10
Branford Harbor	—0 07
New Haven Harbor	—0 08
Milford Harbor	—0 07
Stratford	+ 0 27
Shelton	+ 1 36
Black Rock Harbor	—0 03
Saugatuck River	—0 01
South Norwalk	+ 0 10
Greens Ledge	—0 01
Stamford	+ 0 04
Cos Cob Harbor	+ 0 06
Greenwich	+ 0 02

On NEW LONDON

Orient Point	+ 0 27
Little Gull Is. (Race)	+ 0 12
Greenport	+ 1 04
Southold	+ 1 43
New Suffolk	+ 2 26
South Jamesport	+ 2 32
Shinnecock Canal	+ 2 33
Noyack Bay	+ 2 05
Sag Harbor	+ 0 59
Gardiners Bay	+ 0 21
Promised Land	—0 14
Montauk Inlet	—0 25
Montauk Point	—1 13
Niantic	+ 1 20
Stonington	—0 33
Noank, Mystic River	—0 23
THAMES RIVER	
Smith Cove	—0 01
Norwich	+ 0 09
CONNECTICUT RIVER	
Saybrook Jetty	+ 1 10
Lyme	+ 1 24
Essex	+ 1 38
East Haddam	+ 2 41
Higganum Creek	+ 2 54

On WILLETS PT.

Little Neck Bay	—0 10
Execution Light	—0 06
Manhasset Bay	—0 01
Hempstead Harbor	—0 11
City Island	—0 03
Rye Beach	—0 28
Port Chester	—0 09
Mamaroneck	—0 08
New Rochelle	—0 24
Davids Island	—0 02

On B'WATER BR.

CAPE MAY POINT	—0 10
Miami Beach	+ 1 17
East Point	+ 0 53
Egg Island Point	+ 0 33
Cape Henlopen	—0 05
ROOSEVELT INLET	+ 0 09
Mispillion River Ent.	+ 0 33
St. Jones River Ent.	+ 0 57

On NEW YORK

Jersey City	+ 0 07
Geo. Washington Br.	+ 0 46
Spuyten Duyvil	+ 0 58
Ossining	+ 1 53
Peekskill	+ 2 24
West Point	+ 3 16
Newburg	+ 3 42

On NEWPORT

Sakonnet	—0 10
Tiverton	+ 0 21
Beavertail Point	—0 02
Prudence Is., Sandy Pt.	+ 0 10
Bristol	+ 0 10
Warren	+ 0 21
Nayatt Point	+ 0 12
Pawtucket	+ 0 21
East Greenwich	+ 0 16
Wickford	+ 0 12
Narragansett Pier	—0 08
Point Judith Harbor	—0 07
BLOCK ISLAND	
Great Salt Pond	+ 0 05
Old Harbor	—0 14
Watch Hill Point	+ 0 44

SUNRISE/SUNSET

3/2	6:34	5:51
3/7	6:26	5:57
3/12	6:18	6:03
3/17	6:09	6:09
3/22	6:01	6:14

PHASES OF THE MOON

NEW	1st Qtr.	FULL	2nd Qtr.
3/19	3/27	3/5	3/12

The Original Knight **SOLUNAR TABLES** When To Fish Or Hunt

The schedule of solunar periods for the following week as printed below has been taken from the original Knight Solunar Tables. Plan your day so that you will be fishing good areas during these times when the fish should be most active. The tables are not a guarantee you will catch fish, however.

The major periods begin at the time shown and last for an hour-and-a-half or two hours thereafter, and are in the bold type face. The minor periods are shorter in duration and lighter type.

	AM Minor	AM Major	PM Minor	PM Major
THURS.	2:10	**8:50**	2:45	**9:15**
FRI.	3:00	**9:35**	3:30	**10:00**
SAT.	3:45	**10:25**	4:15	**10:50**
SUN.	4:35	**11:20**	5:05	**11:45**
MON.	5:30	—	6:00	**12:15**
TUES.	6:30	**12:50**	7:00	**1:15**
WED.	7:30	**1:45**	7:55	**2:15**
THURS.	8:30	**2:45**	8:55	**3:15**

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